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CARBURIZED SILICON GATE INSULATORS FOR INTEGRATED CIRCUITS

the semiconductor substrate comprises a p-type silicon substrate;

the source comprises an n+-type source region in the substrate;

the drain comprises an n+-type drain region in the substrate; and

the channel comprises a channel region in the substrate between the source region and the drain region.

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42.(New) The integrated circuit field effect transistor of claim 2 wherein:

the semiconductor substrate comprises a p-type silicon substrate;

the source comprises an n+-type source region in the substrate;

the drain comprises an n+-type drain region in the substrate;

the channel comprises a channel region in the substrate between the source region and the drain region;

the gate comprises a floating gate isolated from the channel region by the amorphous layer of carburized silicon; and

further comprising a polysilicon control gate separated from the floating gate by a layer of insulating material.

43.(New) The device of claim 3 wherein:

the semiconductor substrate comprises a p-type silicon substrate;

the source comprises an n+-type source region in the substrate;

the drain comprises an n+-type drain region in the substrate;

the channel comprises a channel region in the substrate between the source region and the drain region; and

the control gate comprises a polysilicon control gate separated from the floating gate by a layer of insulating material.

44.(New) The transistor of claim 24 wherein:

the substrate comprises a p-type silicon substrate;

the source region comprises an n+-type source region in the substrate; and the drain region comprises an n+-type drain region in the substrate.

45.(New) A transistor comprising:

an n+-type source region in a p-type silicon substrate;

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an n+-type drain region in the substrate;

a channel region in the substrate between the source region and the drain region; and

a gate separated from the channel region by a layer of amorphous carburized silicon.

46.(New) A transistor comprising:

a source region in a substrate;

a drain region in the substrate;

a channel region between the source region and the drain region in the substrate; and

a floating gate separated from the channel region by a layer of amorphous carburized silicon.

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47.(New) The transistor of claim 46 wherein

the substrate comprises a p-type silicon substrate;

the source region comprises an n+-type source region in the substrate;

the drain region comprises an n+-type drain region in the substrate; and

further comprising a polysilicon control gate separated from the floating gate by a layer of insulating material.

48.(New) A transistor comprising:

an n+-type source region in a p-type silicon substrate;

an n+-type drain region in the substrate;

a channel region between the source region and the drain region in the substrate;

a floating gate separated from the channel region by a layer of amorphous carburized silicon; and

a polysilicon control gate separated from the floating gate by a layer of insulating material.

49.(New) The memory cell of claim 21 wherein:

the substrate comprises a p-type/silicon substrate;

the source region comprises an n+-type source region in the substrate;

the drain region comprises an n+-type drain region in the substrate; and

the control gate comprises a polysilicon control gate separated from the floating gate by a layer of insulating material.

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50.(New) A memory cell comprising:

- a source region in a substrate;
- a drain region in the substrate;
- a channel region in the substrate between the source region and the drain region;
- a floating gate;
- a layer of amorphous carburized silicon between the floating gate and the channel region in the substrate; and
 - a control gate separated from the floating gate.

51.(New) The memory cell of claim 50 wherein:

the substrate comprises a p-type silicon/substrate;

the source region comprises an n+-type source region in the substrate;

the drain region comprises an n+-type drain region in the substrate; and

the control gate comprises a polysilicon control gate separated from the floating gate by a layer of insulating material.

52.(New) A memory cell comprising:

an n+-type source region in a p-type silicon substrate;

an n+-type drain region in the substrate;

- a channel region in the substrate between the source region and the drain region;
- a floating gate;
- a layer of amorphous carburized silicon between the floating gate and the channel region in the substrate; and
- a polysilicon control gate separated from the floating gate by a layer of insulating material.

53.(New) A semiconductor device comprising:

- a conductive layer supported by a substrate;
- a layer of amorphous carburized silicon in contact with the conductive layer; and
- a polysilicon layer in contact with the layer of amorphous carburized silicon.

54.(New) The semiconductor device of claim 53 wherein:

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the conductive layer comprises polysilicon; and the semiconductor device further comprises a source/drain diffusion in the substrate.

- 55.(New) A semiconductor device comprising:
 - a first polysilicon layer supported by a substrate;
 - a layer of amorphous carburized silicon in contact with the first polysilicon layer; and
 - a second polysilicon layer in contact with the layer of amorphous carburized silicon.
- 56.(New) The semiconductor device of chaim 55, further comprising a source/drain diffusion in the substrate.

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- 57.(New) A memory cell comprising:
 - a conductive layer supported by a substrate;
 - a layer of amorphous carburized silicon in contact with the conductive layer; and
 - a polysilicon layer in contact with the layer of amorphous carburized silicon.
- 58.(New) The memory cell of claim 57 wherein:

the conductive layer comprises polysilicon; and

the memory cell further comprises a source/drain diffusion in the substrate.

- 59.(New) A memory cell comprising:
 - a first polysilicon layer supported by a substrate;
 - a layer of amorphous carburized silicon in contact with the first polysilicon layer; and
 - a second polysilicon layer in contact with the layer of amorphous carburized silicon.
- 60.(New) The memory cell of claim 59, further comprising a source/drain diffusion in the substrate.
- 61.(New) A capacitor comprising:
 - a conductive layer supported by a substrate;
 - a layer of amorphous carburized silicon in contact with the conductive layer; and
 - a polysilicon layer in contact with the layer of amorphous carburized silicon